

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF RITA SEMEL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a visionary and inspiring leader, my longtime friend Rita Semel, as she recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Beloved in the Bay Area and beyond, Rita has torn down barriers to peace and brought communities together—here at home and around the world.

Personally, it has been a great privilege to have had a front row seat to Rita's greatness for many decades. Deeply committed to her faith and driven by her values, every day she lives out the spirit of *tikkun olam*, 'to heal the world'—which she teaches us is not just a gentle phrase, but a clarion call to action.

Born a New Yorker, but forged into a true San Franciscan by more than eight decades in the Bay Area, Rita has long seen the world not as it is but as it could be—and has labored tirelessly to make real her inspiring vision. At a time when few women could be found in the workplace, she helped break barriers by serving as a reporter at the San Francisco Chronicle during World War II and freelancing for nonprofits as a working mother.

San Franciscans are especially grateful for her decades of leadership of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, which she helped establish in the wake of the devastating Loma Prieta earthquake to bring our community together. Under her leadership, the Council has been a force for justice and opportunity and has improved countless lives: from offering emergency shelter in the winter for people experiencing homelessness to fostering interreligious understanding to creating a chaplaincy program at the Youth Guidance Center, and so much more.

That this revered Bay Area institution, three decades later, continues to unite San Franciscans across races, religions and economic backgrounds is a testament to her unyielding belief that we are always more powerful together than we could ever be alone.

As she advanced justice at home, Rita has also brought boundless energy and a fierce spirit to her work building a world without poverty, violence or discrimination. All Americans can be proud of her service representing our nation to the world as a delegate to two United Nations World Conferences on Women. And as a longtime Jewish activist, she was an early and vocal supporter of the state in Israel—and has been an essential force in advancing a safer, fairer future for Jewish people around the world.

All who have had the high honor of working alongside Rita know that she never takes no for an answer—and it is best to save time and just agree with her right from the start. For her relentless work, she has been recognized with many accolades, including Woman of the Year by the California State Assembly, the San

Francisco Foundation's Community Leadership Award and the Rosa Parks Award from Women in Community Service. Most importantly, however, her impact is measured by the indelible mark she leaves on the lives of her loved ones, her many friends and all fortunate enough to know her.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend the warm greetings of the Congress to the extraordinary Rita Semel as she and her loved ones celebrate her century on this earth—and offer best wishes for happy and healthy years to come.

IN HONOR OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude and admiration for the healthcare workers in Alabama's 4th Congressional District, Northern Alabama, and our entire state. We have all heard stories about individuals in the healthcare field who have gone beyond the call of duty during the Coronavirus pandemic. From all across my district, and throughout our state, constituents have nominated some amazing medical workers, and it is my privilege to honor three of these individuals today.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen heroic work done to fight the virus on the front lines. Doctors, nurses, first responders, and everyone who has worked tirelessly in the medical field during this past year deserve all the thanks we can give them. They have kept us safe and healthy in a time when we needed it most.

Over the past two years I have visited hospitals, talked with those on the front lines of the fight, and visited vaccine clinics. I have been overwhelmed by the outstanding work being done each and every day. It has been a constant battle for these healthcare heroes, but they have risen to the task every step of the way. I have no doubt in my mind that these amazing men and women have made a big difference in Alabama's bout with COVID-19.

It is for those reasons, and so many more, that I want to honor the healthcare heroes. They deserve nothing less. Thanks to the submissions from my constituents in my district, I include in the RECORD the names of three healthcare heroes. When history looks upon this trying time in our country, they will find the names of these Alabamians who courageously took on the fight to keep the rest of us safe.

With my utmost gratitude, may the legacy of these three healthcare heroes live on well into the future.

Dr. Heather L. Haley, who for more than seventeen years has served the Huntsville community by providing a personal touch to her patients and never stopped caring for

them despite the personal risk caused by COVID-19.

Dr. Joe T. Sharp, who for over forty-three years has selflessly cared for others and excelled at communicating medical matters to each of his patients.

Dr. Michael Cantrell, an orthopedic surgeon in Huntsville who serves both his community and his country at the highest levels of medical excellence.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LE MOYNE COLLEGE

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York as the college celebrates its 75th Anniversary. Since its founding, Le Moyne College has provided students with a renowned Jesuit education, preparing thousands of young men and women to reach great successes and live generously.

True to the intellectual and religious tradition it was founded on, for over seven decades Le Moyne has provided its undergraduate students and graduate students with a well-rounded, liberal arts education. Equipped with a Le Moyne education, alumni from the college have become leaders across a wide range of sectors including business, medicine, government, and the arts and sciences. Today, Le Moyne has grown dramatically. It greatly expanded its academic programs and has a sprawling campus that boasts five academic buildings and 15 residential buildings, as well as a chapel, library, performing arts center, Jesuit residence, plaza and athletic facilities.

While the school has remained committed to its core values, Le Moyne has always prided itself on being a trailblazer for progress. At the time of its founding in 1946, Le Moyne was the first Jesuit college in the United States to open as a coeducational institutional. And in 2014, Linda LeMura was named the college's 14th president, making her the first female layperson to lead a Jesuit institution in the United States. Under her leadership, President LeMura has raised the college's profile, prioritized inclusivity, and worked to foster an environment where Le Moyne students and faculty can learn and grow. Notably, during the pandemic, President LeMura took an unusual step to limit the spread of COVID-19 amongst the school's population and highlight the importance of being a thoughtful steward of the community by moving into a neighborhood popular with students living off-campus. For several months, LeMura became a friendly face in the neighborhood. She greeted students living nearby on her daily walks, helped them keep their lawns free of trash and debris, and reprimanded those holding gatherings that could spread the virus.

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